

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5488

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR/ MX

SUBJ: US TREATMENT OF ILLEGAL MEXICAN IMMIGRANTS

REFS: MEXICO 2589; MEXICO 2563

1. TOPIC OF TREATMENT OF MEXICAN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS WAS SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE EDITORIAL AND OTHER COMMENT IN APRIL 17 PRESS. AS SYNTHESIZED BELOW, MOST EDITORIALISTS CALL FOR AT LEAST MINIAML ACTION ON PART OF GOM IN INVESTIGATING CHARGES OF COLLUSION AND LEGACLY QUESTIONABLE ACTIONS IN TRANSPORTING MEXICAN NATIONALS FORCIBLY WITHIN NATIONAL TERRITORY.

2. IN ONE SEMI- OFFICIAL REACTION, SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATIONAL PEASANTS FEDERATION (CNC-- ONE OF THE FORMAL SECTORS OF THE PRI) BLAMED UNSCRUPULOUS LABOR CONTRACTORS ON US SIDE FOR MANY OF ILLS SUFFERED BY ILLEGALS. HE WENT ON TO STRESS ECHEVERRIA ADMINISTRATION' S POLICIES AIMED AT ALLEVIATING RURAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND HENCE REDUCING PRESSURES FOR EMIGRATION.

3. IN EDITORIAL COMMENT, " EL DIA" TERMED SITUATION REPORTED IN " NEW YORK TIMES" SCANDALOUS" AND STATED THAT IT POINTED OUT TWO EQUALLY VICIOUS FACTS: " CORRUPTION
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EXISTING IN CERTAIN GOVERNMENTAL CIRCLES IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRY (US) AND ENORMOUS UNEMPLOYMENT EXISTING AMONG INHABITANTS OF MEXICAN COUNTRYSIDE". " EL DIA" WENT ON TO QUANTIFY AS UNDEREMPLOYED " BETWEEN 40 AND 50 PERCENT OF ECONOMICALLY ACTIVE POPULATION". " EXCELSIOR", AFTER REITERATING ALLEGED INVOLMENT OF US OFFICIALS IN CORRUPT TRAFFICKING OF ILLEGALS, STATED " THIS COULD NOT TAKE PLACE... IF IT WERE NOT FOR COMPLACENCY OF MEXICAN AUTHORITIES, WHO, IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, TOLERATED THIS SITUATION." " EXCELSIOR" WENT ON TO STATE THAT IT IS BASIC NOT ONLY TO ELIMINATE EXPLOITATION AND ASSURE APPLICATION OF LAW, " BUT ALSO TO RECOGNIZE THAT BRACERO MOVEMENT IS A REALITY WHICH CANNOT BE EVADED AND MORE PROPERLY SHOULD BE MANAGED BY A TREATY". " EL HERALDO" CALLED FOR AN END TO SITUATION AND STATED THAT MEXICAN OFFICIALS ARE OBLIGED TO CARRY OUT REQUIRED INVESTIGATIONS " CASTIGATING THOSE RESPONSIBLE WITH APPROPRIATE RIGOR". " NOVEDADES" ALSO CALLS FOR INVESTIGATION AND PUNISHMENT OF MEXICANS INVOCVED; PAPER THEN GOES ON TO LIKEN PROBLEM TO SLAVE TRAFFICKING. WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT CONDITIONS IN RURAL MEXICO ARE AT ROOT OF EMIGRATION, " NOVEDADES" CONSIDERS THAT NEW BRACERO AGREEMENT IS ALSO IN ORDER.

4. IN SEPARATE ARTICLE, " NOVEDADES " PICKED UP UPI WASHINGTON STORY TO EFFECT THAT APPEALS COURT HAD RULED THAT TEMPORARY MEXICAN WORKERS IN US MUST HAVE PROPER VISAS. DECISION MADE IN CASE BROUGHT BY AGRICULTURAL WORKERS UNION AGAINST INS. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DETAILS.
MCBRIDE

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